

**ARKANSAS PROFESSIONAL BAIL BOND COMPANY AND PROFESSIONAL  
BAIL BONDSMAN LICENSING BOARD  
December 12, 2003**

Chairman Don Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Don Smith, Frank Sturgeon, Eugene Reynolds, Marc Oudin, Rex Morris, and Xollie Duncan. Phyllis Carruth was absent. Also present were Assistant Attorney General Alice Lightle, Executive Director, Linda Longstreth, Board staff and members of the audience.

Chairman presented a plaque to out-going Board Member, Gary Edwards, recognizing his ten years of service to the Arkansas Professional Bail Bondsman Licensing Board.

Following a review of the Board Minutes for November 14, 2003. Oudin moved to approve. Sturgeon seconded. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**License Approvals:**

Four (4) non-controversial license applications and five (5) non-controversial tentative license applications were submitted for Board approval. Longstreth informed the Board that none of the applicants listed would be licensed until January 2004 due to the relicensing requirement. Oudin moved to approve the license approvals and the tentative license approvals as presented. Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

**Controversial License/Clifford Byron Cage**

Longstreth advised the Board that Clifford Byron Cage applied for an Arkansas bail bondsman license with First Arkansas Bail Bonds. Mr. Cage's license was refused pursuant to a board member objection; however, Mr. Cage was not present to address the Board's concerns. Subsequently, Mr. Cage requested to appear before the Board with counsel, Richard Hutto, to respond to questions in an attempt to secure his bail bond license. After questions and discussion, Oudin moved to table Mr. Cage's request until the issues with Mr. Reynolds, Renny's Bail Bond Co. are rectified. Sturgeon seconded. Motion carried

**Forfeitures:**

The Forfeiture Report was provided for the Board's information. Longstreth requested that the Board vote to suspend the bail bond company license of those companies listed with forfeitures due and payable between December 12, 2003 and January 9, 2003. Sturgeon moved to suspend the bail bond company license of any company with forfeitures due and payable between December 12, 2003 and January 9, 2003, if the company fails to pay by close of business on the day the forfeiture is due. Oudin seconded. Motion carried. Longstreth advised that the Burns Security Deposit has been disbursed; therefore, any forfeiture judgment previously listed for Burns Bail Bond Co. was addressed and removed from the past due forfeiture listing.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**November Vouchers Paid:**

Longstreth presented the November vouchers paid and offered to respond to questions. There being none, the Board proceeded.

**Bail Bondsman Education Presentations:**

The Board was informed that its approval of the education programs offered to bail bond company owners and bail bondsmen for the upcoming year, 2004, is necessary. Longstreth advised that Mr. Ronnie Minnick with the Real Estate Institute for Career Advancement, Inc. and Ms. Donna Matchett with the Arkansas Professional Bail Association were available to present their programs.

Mr. Minnick came forward and explained the 2004 program to be offered by the Real Estate Institute. Oudin moved to approve the course as submitted. Sturgeon seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Matchett came forward and explained the 2004 program to be offered by the Arkansas Professional Bail Association. Oudin moved to approve the course as submitted. Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

**Burns Bail Bond Co. Settlement:**

Information concerning the receipt of and disbursement of the Burns Bail Bond Co. security deposit settlement was included for the Board's information. Oudin asked if the judgments were paid in chronological order. Longstreth assured him that they were. There were no further questions so the Board proceeded.

**Request for Modification of Board Order:**

Alice Lightle informed the Board that Mr. Bill Lewellen, counsel for Kirk Manuel, is requesting that the Board modify Case No. 98-047 on which the Board ordered a one year suspension of Kirk Manuel's bail bondsman license as well as a \$1000.00 fine. Mr. Manuel's license was suspended in July 2003 and Mr. Manuel paid the \$1000.00 fine assessed. Mr. Lewellen is offering to dismiss the Circuit Court Appeal, if the Board will allow the reinstatement of Kirk Manuel's bail bondsman license. After discussion, Duncan moved to approve the settlement. Sturgeon seconded. Motion carried.

**AG's Status Report:**

Assistant Attorney General Alice Lightle presented a report to the Board indicating the current status of Board cases presented to the Attorney General's Office for handling.

She advised that the first case listed was heard in 1997 and had been around for a long time. She explained the case, the Board's findings and the case history through the courts. Affordable Bail Bond Co. and Jamie Mann have offered to dismiss the appeal in Circuit Court and pay a \$500.00 fine for Affordable Bail Bond and a \$500.00 fine for Jamie Mann, if the Board will agree to modify its order and close the case. Oudin moved for settlement if each defendant agrees to pay a \$1000.00 fine instead of the \$500.00 proposed. Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

**Clifford Byron Cage:**

Chairman Smith recalled the controversial licensing issue for Clifford Byron Cage. Mr. Hutto indicated that he handed Mr. Reynolds seventeen (17) files that should have been forwarded earlier to Renny's Bail Bond Co. by Mr. Cage. He further indicated that the majority of the cases should have been exonerated. Mr. Hutto asked that the Board consider the funds in question as a civil matter. Mr. Cage addressed the Board. Duncan moved to table the application until Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Cage have an opportunity to discuss and agree upon a resolution.

**Public Comments:**

Chairman Smith asked for Public Comments. There being none the meeting was adjourned to hearings.

Submitted for approval:

This 9th day of January, 2004 \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman